

Minutes of the Public Works Committee - January 13, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chair Manke who led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chair Richard Manke, Co. Board Supervisors James Behrend, Karl Nilson, Rodell Singert, David Swan; **Absent:** Peter Gundrum

Staff Present: County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legis. Associate Sandra Meisenheimer

Also Present: Business Mgr. Betsy Crosswaite, Hazardous Materials Coordinator Leslie Williams, Building Operations Mgr. Mark Keckeisen, Senior Civil Engineer Paul Barthel, Captain Meg Schnabl, Architectural Services Mgr. Dennis Cerreta, Community Development Coordinator Glen Lewinski

Read Correspondence

1. Manke reviewed a letter from Rachel De Sombre, Project Engineer, of Bloom Consultants regarding an Operational Planning Meeting on January 20, 2005 for the redesign of Calhoun Road in the City of New Berlin.
2. Esler referred to his memo of January 11, 2005, regarding "Expense Reimbursement" which he briefly explained.

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-107 Create New Capital Project 200509 North Prairie Groundwater Remediation

Williams, Keckeisen, and Crosswaite were present. **Motion:** Swan moved, second by Behrend, to approve Ordinance 159-O-107. Williams stated that the county stores salt in a lot of places in the county. The Environmental Health Division has been monitoring the salt content in the ground water around the North Prairie Substation. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has said the levels have been trending up and that the county needs to come up with a plan to address this issue. In 2004 a consultant did a study of the alternatives that could be done on the property with the operations and the facility itself. This ordinance creates a new capital project at the North Prairie substation to remediate sources of salt-contaminated storm water runoff as agreed upon by the DNR. The project expenditure budget for construction only is estimated at \$105,500 and will be funded from the county's contingency funds. The project was designed in 2004 with funds from the Park and Planning Environmental Health Division operating budget for \$31,835. The work includes the installation of a new underground holding tank, which will require annual pumping, and disposal costs estimated at \$2,000.

Nilson asked what does North Prairie do with stormwater runoff at their main intersections? We're concerned about salt contaminated stormwater runoff affecting nearby private wells, but what happens to the other stormwater runoff? Does it go into the Fox River? Williams said possibly and also Lake Michigan. Nilson said he believes everyone's car brings home more salt from the roads than a couple of salt trucks.

Singert pointed out several places where it states there is a possibility of contamination with the use of the words "possible, possibility, appears to be." He would like to see the evidence that shows the chloride levels are excessive so he can justify this expenditure. Therefore, he will be voting no. Williams said she can provide the statistics. Esler said this is a negotiated settlement and when you settle you don't admit anything. Basically, we're fixing it but we're not saying we're at fault. Swan

said he disagrees with Singert's request based on Williams' statement that the numbers are going up. Singert said it is reasonable to ask for the data. Swan said he believes what the staff is saying.

Nilson asked who was negotiating for us with the DNR? Williams said Mike Rodomski, Environmental Health Supervisor, and herself. Nilson asked why did the DNR come to you? Williams said in 1999 one of the haulers/pumpers dropped a crowbar through the opening of the tank which resulted in a hole in the bottom of the fiberglass brine tank. It took about a month to realize what had happened. This was reported and is how the case file started. **Motion carried 4 – 1; Singert voting no.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-102 Establishment of Speed Zone – CTH K, Village of Butler – Twenty-five Miles Per hour

Barthel said Ordinance 159-O-102 as well as 103, 104, and 106 are all for roads the county has taken over by jurisdictional transfer in the last year. It was decided that the best way to approach these roads is to have an actual ordinance on record. All of these ordinances have the same speed limits as posted by the municipalities and establish that the roads are county roads.

Motion: Swan moved, second by Manke, to approve Ordinance 159-O-102. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-103 Establishment of Speed Zone – CTH K, Villages of Menomonee Falls and Butler – Thirty-Five Miles Per hour

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Swan, to approve Ordinance 159-O-103. Barthel said this highway abuts the previous one you just approved and is 35 mph all the way out to Pilgrim Road and beyond. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-104 Establishment of Speed Zone – CTH F

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Singert, to approve Ordinance 159-O-104. Barthel said this is former STH 164 from the quarries and Cooper Power north to Capital Drive. The existing speed is 45 mph up to a point just north of Duplainville Road where it changes to 55 mph. **Motion carried 4 – 1; Swan voting no.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-106 Establishment of Speed Zone – CTH M

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Singert, to approve Ordinance 159-O-106. Barthel said this is basically North Avenue through the City of Brookfield, which is posted at 35 mph throughout the city. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-105 Establishment of Speed Zone – CTH I

Barthel said Highway I runs across the south side of Waukesha. This ordinance cleans up a number of different speed zones that were established in the late 70's. This area has changed over the years and now there's a lot of development. They want to find a consistent speed limit through the area. Currently, there are four different speed limits so they're trying to unify them to make them better reflect the area as well as make it consistent with other locales that have the same type and level of development.

Nilson said he is against setting speed limits to be consistent. Speed limits should reflect the road conditions and that's how people drive. He doesn't see any value in the consistency of speed limits. Nilson asked was a speed study done and where? Barthel said yes on the segment west of

Highway 164 (1,000 feet west of 164). Nilson said “Oscar Wilde said consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative.” He agrees with that and thinks the speed limits out there are just fine. Barthel said they were prompted by the number of developments and by a number of homeowners asking about the difference in speed limits on the roadway. Nilson asked what was the result of the speed study? Barthel said the 85th percentile was 52 mph and the 50th percentile was 47 mph. Nilson said so you’re using the 50th percentile. Barthel said that speed limits are set by a number of things and other factors can be taken into account on roadways to develop a good speed limit, such as the topography (rolling, curving, straight), accident history, geographical region (how many houses; how many driveways), and actual physical makeup of the roadway (is it engineered, does it have wide or narrow shoulders). The speed study is there to help make a decision. Bolte said he doesn’t like to lower speed limits unnecessarily either but this is a case of trying to clean up and compromise what they think is a reasonable speed limit in that area.

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Singert, to approve Ordinance 159-O-105. Swan said he is going to go with what people are doing in their cars these days, such as kids, cell phones, etc., and he doesn’t think people are looking at the speed signs. When people turn onto a road, there should be a sign saying what the speed is for that road. Swan said he doesn’t like to see it jumping all over the place -- it should be consistent and this isn’t. It goes from 50 to 40 to 50, and 45 mph would be a compromise. **Motion carried 4 – 1; Nilson voting no.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-062 Establishment of Speed Zone – CTH TT (*Referred back to committee at County Board meeting of 10/26/04*)

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Swan, to approve Ordinance 159-O-062. Bolte stated this is contingent on the installation of the traffic signal at the intersection of Northview and Meadowbrook Roads which is perfectly appropriate. They’re expecting the signal to be installed by late spring to early summer. At that point the county will notify the City of Waukesha so they can raise their speed limit and the county in turn will lower theirs. Esler explained that with what has been presented if the committee agrees with their previous vote of 6 – 1 (Nilson voting no) at the meeting of October 14, 2004, this information can be forwarded to the County Board.

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-108 Amend Capital Project 200108, Justice Facility, to Permit Completion of Program/Training Rooms

Trawicki, Schnabl, Johannik, Bolte and Cerreta were present. **Motion:** Manke moved, second by Behrend, to approve Ordinance 159-O-108. Schnabl distributed a layout of the second floor showing where the training rooms are located.

Trawicki stated this ordinance is for a change to move funds from contingency for completion of three additional rooms for space for jail programming and training. It will cost \$255,000 in additional construction expenditures. This is not something new. It was in the original plans but with value engineering, it was eliminated. However, they recognized early on the need for the space and believe it should be done to avoid any more increases in costs. The training rooms will be used for the GED Program from WCTC, adult education, bible study, and the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council is always looking for space.

Swan asked is \$1.3 million left in contingency after this project is finished? Esler said yes that is what is in the fiscal note. Swan asked is that enough to finish? Cerreta said yes. Bolte said actually a lot of that money has already been spent and at this point in time there is about \$1/2 million left to

finish the project which is enough. Behrend asked how much was saved by pulling this due to value engineering? Bolte said about \$150,000 to \$160,000. Cerreta said to put it out on the street now would cost even more. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 159-O-018 Dispose of Building at 1120 Northview Road
(Tabled at meeting of 5/27/04)

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Singert, to take Ordinance 159-O-018 off the table. **Motion carried 5 – 0.** Manke said he was at a CJCC sub-committee meeting yesterday, and a group will be touring the house next Wednesday. They are looking for a community corrections model, and this house might serve as a beginning spot. There is interest in using it for that, and it could always be used as a transition house. Also, the Salvation Army might be interested in it for a program. Manke said this is another programming opportunity and if we don't start doing some of this, we are going to be building another jail. Manke said he would like to see this ordinance re-tabled. Nilson agreed.

Swan said unless we get some more concrete information, we are just wasting our time. Singert said it is now 2005, and we've been waiting 7-8 months for a proposal. How much longer does it go on? It's the wrong house in the wrong location for all of the activities that are being considered. It's expensive land and it needs to be studied. Behrend said he is not opposed to waiting to see what might be proposed even if it takes another year.

Lewinski said the money would be coming out of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program income. Currently there is \$375,00 in the program, and there is \$80,000 coming back from a Mukwonago project that did not meet HUD criteria. Regarding this house, money is not the worry but meeting HUD criteria is. If the project is eligible, there will be money to rehab it.

Esler said this item was re-agendized because new information was distributed at the last committee meeting, one of which was a new cost estimate and the second was an email from Mike DeMares, Human Services Clinical Services Mgr., with ideas on how to use the house. Esler asked Lewinski if there are any CDBG timeframes as to when a decision would have to be made. Lewinski said the only timeframe would be if another project was being proposed. However, funds could be reserved if someone indicates that there will be a project for this house.

Behrend said he agrees with Singert that there should be a plan of the area out there. Singert indicated some decision should be made one way or the other in a reasonable amount of time, i.e., three months or less. Manke said the sub-committee of CJCC will be touring the house next Wednesday. Nilson said if you look at what it would cost to build a new building for a project, it would cost a fortune. It would cost considerably less to rehab the house. Speaking as a taxpayer, we should hang onto it. We should put it back on the table for as long as it takes. Swan said he agrees.

Esler stated from a historic perspective this house was the residence of the former superintendent of nursing homes until a new house was built west of the Northview facility. When the house was vacated, it became the female shelter care, and the Century House was the male shelter care. When the Children's Center was built, the vacant houses were rented out.

Motion: Behrend moved, second by Nilson, to table Ordinance 159-O-018. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Approve Minutes of December 16, 2004

Motion: Nilson moved, second by Behrend, to approve the minutes of 12/16/04. **Motion carried 5 – 0.**

Report from Executive Committee Member for Meeting of 1/10/05

Manke reported on items that were discussed and/or considered at the last meeting on January 10.

Public Comment

Nilson stated that Lucy Gardner passed away last December, and he went to the funeral in Hartford. She was married to Bill Gardner who is the President of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. Nilson said Mrs. Gardner was very well liked and will be greatly missed.

Motion to adjourn: Singert moved, second by Behrend, to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.
Motion carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodell L. Singert
Secretary

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